



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

Shinshu KATO et al.

Notice of Allowance Mailed
09/16/2004 - Batch/Confirmation No. 2936

Application No.: 10/725,060

Group Art Unit: 2839

Filed: December 2, 2003

Examiner: H. Hyeon

Docket No.: 117084

For: A JUNCTION BOX HAVING A PLURALITY OF MAIN CASINGS AND
CONNECTORS DESIGNED FOR USE WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF
AUTOMOBILES (As Amended)

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Following are Applicants' comments in reply to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the September 16, 2004 Notice of Allowability.

In section 1, page 2 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner's statement is that in "combination with all the limitations recited in the independent claim, all the prior arts do not show a junction box comprising a plurality of main casings juxtaposed together in accordance with different types of automobile vehicles and a lower casing member being attached to the main casings, wherein the size of the lower casing member is depending on the number of the main casings to be coupled for a special purpose."

The Examiner's Reasons for Allowance appear to cover the subject matter of independent claim 1, but fail to include the subject matter of independent claim. Applicants note, for clarification, that claim 13 is also allowable at least because nowhere do the references of record teach or disclose a junction box having a plurality of main casings, a lower casing member, a connector containing section and at least one of a jumper cable and a conductive pin, wherein each of the plurality of main casings includes at least one circuit, the main casing having opposing side surfaces that have male and female coupling portions; a plurality of longitudinal bus bars disposed in parallel with one another, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal bus bars includes a strap-like portion extending horizontally; a plurality of tabs projecting vertically from an upper edge of the strap-like portion; and a plurality of insulation displacement terminals projecting vertically from a lower edge of the strap-like portion; the lower casing member being attached to the plurality of main casings and sized depending on the number of the plurality of main casings to be coupled for a special purpose, the lower casing member also being provided with an attachment portion for a vehicle body that projects from the member; the connector containing section accommodates the plurality of tabs; at least one of the jumper cable and the conductive pin is connected to select ones of the plurality of insulation displacement terminals so that selected longitudinal bus bars are electrically coupled to one another; and wherein the at least one of the jumper cable and the conductive pin electrically couples longitudinal bus bars from at least two different ones of the plurality of main casings.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below if further comment is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 13, 2004

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